

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**In re:**

**ARSEN KASHKASHIAN, JR.,**

**Debtor,**

**ROBERT H. HOLBER, Chapter 7  
Trustee of the Estate of ARSEN  
KASHKASHIAN, JR.,**

**Plaintiff,**

**vs.**

**ERIC J. BANKS,**

**Defendant.**

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: **CHAPTER 7**  
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: **BANKRUPTCY NO. 15-11531 (ELF)**  
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: **ADVERSARY NO. 17-00067 (ELF)**  
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**MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS**

Defendant, Eric J. Banks, submits this Memorandum of Law in support of his pending motion to dismiss on the grounds that pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6), the allegations in the Complaint fail to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. The allegations by Plaintiff are based on factually insufficient and fraudulent documents that Plaintiff has used as evidence of the Trustee's power to take the Property for inclusion in the Debtor's Estate. (All capitalized terms are as presented and defined in the Complaint.) The Real Estate Installment Sale Agreement (the "Agreement") and Mortgage that Plaintiff has presented to the Court as the sole basis for the Complaint are both fraudulent and incompetent and should not be used to obtain such relief from this Court. Plaintiff has presented an unsecured note as the Mortgage, which on

its face is not a Mortgage and, as such, is not only factually wrong as an asset belonging to Debtor's Estate, it is also an unsecured note procured to pay for a fraudulent conveyance.

**FACTS:**

For many years, the Debtor was engaged as the Defendant's attorney. On January 15, 2008, relying on that relationship and his assumption of the Debtor's expertise and professional honesty, the Defendant accepted the Agreement as a bonafide and enforceable document that would give him the reasonable and fair opportunity to purchase his home. Relying on the Debtor's representation as being the owner of the Property, the Defendant agreed to purchase the Property from the Debtor by financing the purchase under the installment sale payment arrangement set forth in the Agreement. The Defendant's credit prevented him from obtaining financing any other way. The Defendant made a down payment of \$15,000 toward the purchase price of \$325,000, with payments of \$1875 monthly.

Compounding the Defendant's ill-placed reliance on the Debtor's veracity, it is well documented that historically, installment land contracts have been notorious for abuse of African Americans and low-income people. Recent articles document this abuse and entrapment.

(See <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/07/business/dealbook/how-a-home-bargain-became-a-pain-in-the-butt-and-worse.html>; and <https://www.frbatlanta.org/economy-matters/community-and-economic-development/2017/06/14/research-examines-contract-for-deed-sales>)

An excerpt from the article by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta is especially chilling in its description that mirrors the Defendant's experience, with the following quote.

"The buyer in these transactions builds no equity in the home and does not receive the deed until the last payment is made, often 20 or more years after the agreement is struck.... In some cases, unsophisticated borrowers with little access to legal or financial assistance have become entangled in financing schemes that charge high interest rates and include unforgiving forfeiture clauses.... At their worst ... contract for deed sales trap low-income

buyers in unfavorable arrangements that are difficult to escape without losing the home they are seeking to acquire.”

Disturbingly, in the Defendant’s case, he thought that he had legal assistance from the Debtor that would safely allow him to procure the Property..

From 2008 until 2016, the Defendant believed the Debtor to be the owner of the Property. It was not until December 2016, when the Debtor presented the Defendant a statement that the installment payments made to that date totaled \$184,250, with a demand for an additional \$70,000 for real estate taxes, insurance and water bills, that the Defendant became worried and alarmed. After failing to receive the Debtor’s help, the Defendant contacted the undersigned attorney for assistance. The Defendant contends that he not only timely made the monthly note payments, he also made additional regular payments of \$300 monthly to cover the taxes and water bills.

By failing to pay these bills, the Debtor has jeopardized the Defendant’s investment that may cause him the loss of his home. As required by Pennsylvania’s Installment Land Contract Law of 1965, 68 P.S. §901 *et seq.*, which governs an installment sales contract executed for property in Pennsylvania, the following provides the Debtor’s legal obligation:

“In determining what portion of the monthly installments shall be applied against principal on account of the purchase price, there ***shall*** be deducted all items authorized under the agreement of sale, such as taxes, water and sewer rentals, interest on the unpaid balance of purchase price, cost of all insurance premiums, repairs and assessments authorized under the terms of the agreement and the net balance thereof shall be applied to principal.” (Emphasis supplied.) (See 68 P.S. §908. Allocation of Monthly Payments.)

After engaging the undersigned attorney to resolve the unexpected and unreasonable demands from the Debtor, the Defendant was informed of the undersigned attorney’s discovery that the Debtor is not the owner of the Property and that the Debtor had not complied with his

obligation under the law to pay annual taxes and other municipal costs, such as water bills, that could be placed against the Property as liens.

The undersigned attorney discovered that the title to the Property is vested in Howard R. Foulkrod, as Trustee under a Trust dated June 19, 1997, for the benefit of Howard Foulkrod, by Deed from Howard R. Foulkrod and Anne Foulkrod, h/w, dated November 24, 1997, recorded 12/30/1997 in Book JTD 511, Page 11. (See attached as Exhibit "A," the Deed, the City of Philadelphia property records, and the real estate tax balance due as of August 30, 2017.) During the search for Howard R. Foulkrod, the Defendant received the Complaint on or about May 15, 2017, compelling the Defendant to stop all attempts for redress from the Debtor. Then, the Debtor caused additional confusion when the Debtor's associate attempted without authority and in stark conflict of interest on June 5, 2017, to file the Defendant's Answer to the Complaint with this Court. The Debtor's associate, Andre Dover, Esquire, shares a practice with the Debtor, as shown on the Certificate of Service filed with this Court. By his draft of the Answer, Mr. Dover attempted to cover up the fraud that was started against the Defendant in 2008.

Almost simultaneously, on or about June 16, 2017, the Defendant received the City of Philadelphia's Civil Tax Petition against Howard R. Foulkrod, at the address of the Property, that is a claim for delinquent taxes and petitioning for the right to sell the Property at a tax sale.

**ARGUMENT:**

The Plaintiff's factual background and claims for relief fail to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. The Debtor's fraud against the Defendant is plain from any point of view and is easily discovered and confirmed. It is axiomatic that no one can sell what is not owned. Upon receiving notice of the fraud and evidence of ownership of the Property from the undersigned attorney, the Plaintiff is bound to acknowledge that the Trustee cannot sustain its

claim to the Property or compel any payments from the Defendant as a part of the Debtor's Estate. Any attempt to do so goes against all reason and the requirements of the rule of law. The Plaintiff appears to have been misled by the Debtor's misrepresentation of his assets.

Without ownership of the Property, the Debtor has misrepresented to the Trustee his property and assets. Without ownership, the Debtor has committed fraud against the Defendant in such a dastardly and shameful fashion while providing legal services to the Defendant that his bad acts should be reported to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court as a disciplinary matter. Without the Debtor's ownership of the Property, there is no basis for obtaining the relief stated in the Complaint. Thus, *ipso facto*, Plaintiff simply has no claim against the Defendant.

**CONCLUSION:**

For the reasons stated above, respectfully, the undersigned attorney requests that the Defendant's Motion to Dismiss be granted with prejudice and that any other relief available to this Court should be granted to the Defendant, including a reimbursement of attorney's fees and court costs.

August 30, 2017

/s/Yvonne B. Haskins  
Yvonne B. Haskins, Esquire  
7035 McCallum Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19119  
Telephone: (215) 756-5166  
Fax: (215) 242-3050  
yvonne.haskins1@gmail.com

**EXHIBIT "A"**

**COPIES OF DEED TO PROPERTY AND CITY TAX RECORD**

118N15-85 ✓

D 0511 011

**DEED**

**THIS INDENTURE MADE THE 24<sup>th</sup> day of November**  
in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-  
seven (1997)

**BETWEEN** Howard R. and Anne Foulkrod, Husband & Wife  
(hereinafter called the Grantor s), of the one part, and

To

Howard R. Foulkrod, as Trustee under a Trust  
dated the 19 day of JUNE 1997, for the benefit of Howard Foulkrod,  
JR.

(hereinafter called the Grantee s), of the other part,

**WITNESSETH** That the Grantor s, parties of the first  
part have ~~hereby~~ for and in consideration  
of the sum **ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00)** lawful money of the United  
States of America, unto them -- well and truly paid by the  
said Grantees, at or before the sealing and delivery hereof,  
the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted,  
bargained and sold, released and confirmed, and by these  
presents do grant, bargain and sell, release and confirm unto  
the said Grantee s their heirs and assigns, as tenants by the  
entireties between husband and wife and as joint tenants with  
right of survivorship as to the whole,

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of ground with the buildings  
and improvements thereon erected,

SITUATE in the 23 ward of the City of Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania.

BEGINNING at the Northerly corner of Fillmore Street (fifty  
feet wide) and Castor Avenue (seventy feet wide); thence  
extending Northeasterly side of Fillmore Street, One Hundred  
Eighteen feet One and Three-eights inches to a point; thence  
extending Northeastwardly on a line at right angles to  
Fillmore Street, eighty six feet six and one-eights inches to  
the Southwesterly side of the right of way of the  
Philadelphia and Frankford Railroad, thence extending

959 FILLMORE ST

DEED COPY AVAILABLE

000310  
Joan T. Decker  
COMMISSIONER OF RECORDS

THIS DOCUMENT RECORDS  
91 DEC 20 AM 5:32

D 0511 012

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Southwesterly on a line curving to the right (at a radius of one thousand three hundred eighty five feet one and one-quarter inches) the distance of One Hundred feet seven and one-half to the Northwesterly side of Caster Avenue; thence extending Southwesterly along same sixty three feet nine inches to the first mentioned point and place of beginning.

BEING known as No. 959 Fillmore Street.

BEING the same premises, which Joseph Leporace and Marie Leporace, husband and wife, by deed dated 8/30/1982 and recorded in Philadelphia County in Deed book EFP 550 Page 373 granted and conveyed unto Howard R. Foulkrod and Anne Foulkrod, husband and wife, in fee.

**TOGETHER** with all and singular the buildings, improvements, ways streets, driveways, passages, waters, water-courses, rights, liberties, privileges, hereditaments and appurtenances, whatsoever unto the hereby granted premises belonging, or in any wise appertaining, and the reversions and remainders, rents, issues, and profits thereof; and all the estate, right, title, interest, property, claim and demand whatsoever of them the said grantors, as well at law as in equity, of, in, and to the same.

**TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the said lot or piece of ground described with the buildings and improvements thereon erected along with the hereditaments and premises hereby granted, or mentioned and intended so to be, with the appurtenances, unto the said Grantees, their heirs and assigns, to and for the only proper use and behoof of the said Grantees, their heirs and assigns forever. As tenants by the entireties as to husband and wife and as joint tenants with right of survivorship as to the whole.

**AND** the said Grantors, their heirs, executors and administrators do covenant, promise and agree, to and with the said Grantees, their heirs and assigns, by these presents, that they the Grantors and their heirs, all and singular the hereditaments and premises hereby granted or mentioned and intended so to be, with the appurtenances, unto the said Grantees, their heirs and assigns, against them the said Grantors and their heirs, and against all and every person and persons whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim



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the same or any part thereof, by, from or under them or any of them, shall and will by these presents.

WARRANT and forever DEFEND.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE PARTIES OF THE FIRST PART HAVE HEREUNTO SET THEIR HANDS AND SEALS. DATED THE DAY AND YEAR FIRST ABOVE WRITTEN.

SEALED AND DELIVERED \$

IN THE PRESENCE OF US:

\$ Howard Fulford (SEAL)

[Signature]

[Signature] (SEAL)

PHILADELPHIA REAL ESTATE		BOOK NO. _____ PAGE NO. _____
<b>TRANSFER TAX CERTIFICATION</b>		
Complete each section and file in duplicate with Recorder of Deeds when (1) the full value/consideration is not set forth in the deed, (2) when the deed is without consideration, or by gift, or (3) a tax exemption is claimed. If more space is needed, attach additional sheets.		
<b>A. CONSIDERANT</b> - All inquiries may be directed to the following person: <u>DEAN KASHGATIAN, ESQ.</u>		
STREET ADDRESS <u>1240 BOUTE VLS</u>	CITY <u>CRESSKILL</u>	STATE <u>PA</u>
<b>B. TRANSFER DATA</b> PROPERTY ADDRESS <u>14000 TALLE FOLLERD</u> STREET ADDRESS <u>14000 TALLE FOLLERD</u> CITY <u>PHILADELPHIA</u>		DATE OF ACQUISITION OF INTEREST <u>1/1/70</u> STREET ADDRESS <u>14000 TALLE FOLLERD</u> CITY <u>PHILADELPHIA</u>
<b>C. PROPERTY LOCATION</b> STREET ADDRESS <u>14000 TALLE FOLLERD</u> CITY <u>PHILADELPHIA</u>		DATE OF ACQUISITION OF INTEREST <u>1/1/70</u> STREET ADDRESS <u>14000 TALLE FOLLERD</u> CITY <u>PHILADELPHIA</u>
<b>D. VALUATION DATA</b> 1. ACTUAL CASH CONSIDERATION <u>100</u>		2. OTHER CONSIDERATION <u>3.30</u>
3. TOTAL CONSIDERATION <u>103.30</u>		4. PERCENTAGE OF INTEREST CONVEYED <u>100%</u>
<b>E. EXEMPTION DATA</b> 1. Check Appropriate Box Below for Exemption Claimed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>WIN or Intergovt acquisition</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Transfer to Industrial Development Agency</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Transfer to agent or straw party. (Attach copy of agency/straw party agreement).</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Transfer between principal and agent. (Attach copy of agency/straw trust agreement). Tax paid prior deed \$ _____</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Transfer to the Commonwealth, the United States, and instrumentalities by gift, dedication, condemnation or in lieu of condemnation. (Attach copy of resolution).</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Transfer from mortgagor to a holder of a mortgage in default. Mortgage Book Number _____ Page Number _____</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Corrective deed (Attach copy of the prior deed).</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other (Please explain exemption claimed, if other than listed above.)</b> <u>PAID TO CHIEF</u>		
Under penalties of law or ordinance, I declare that I have examined this Statement, including accompanying information, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct and complete.		
Signature of Declarant or Notary Public <u>Dean Kashgatian</u>		DATE <u>1/1/70</u>


COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

COUNTY OF BUCKS

SS.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1997, before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth and County Aforesaid; personally appeared Howard and Anne Foulkrod who acknowledged the foregoing to be their act and deed and desired that the same be recorded as such.

WITNESS my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid.

  
Notary Public

Notarial Seal  
Arden K. Kline, Notary Public  
Bristol Twp., Bucks County  
My Commission Expires Nov. 14, 1999

THE ADDRESS OF THE GRANTEE IS:

2253, BOX 112 MOUNTAIN ROAD  
SHARPSBURG, PA 17801

RECORD COPY AVAILABLE

Phila.Gov | Mayor's Office | City Council | Business | Residents | Leisure | Philly311

Home Payment Options FAQs Contact Information

## Look Up Real Estate Tax

by Property Address >>  
by BRT Number >>  
(9-digits, no dashes)

**Windows 8 / Internet Explorer 10 users:**  
Please enable Compatibility View by clicking the Compatibility View button on the address bar. [?]

If you are still having technical difficulties viewing the application, please contact us at 215-686-6628.

## City of Philadelphia Real Estate Tax

The City and the School District of Philadelphia impose a tax on all real estate in the City pursuant to Philadelphia Code Chapter 19-1300, as authorized by 72 P.S. [section sign] 5020-201. The Office of Property Assessment (OPA) determines the value of the property on which the taxes must be paid.

Real Estate Tax bills are sent in December for the following year and payments are due March 31st. If you pay on or before the last day of February, you receive a 1% discount. If you pay after March 31, you are subject to increased charges which are collectively called "additions". At year-end these charges are capitalized and become tax principal on which interest and penalty will accrue.

For questions about your account, please forward an email to [revenue@phila.gov](mailto:revenue@phila.gov) or call 215-686-6442.

For questions about account payoffs, forward an email to [retaxpayoff@phila.gov](mailto:retaxpayoff@phila.gov). To receive payoff amounts, please e-mail the statement of claim number from the legal action, the property address and/or the Office of Property Assessment number to [retaxpayoff@phila.gov](mailto:retaxpayoff@phila.gov) or fax it to 215-686-0582.

If the "Status" column on a tax year is marked LSLD, the corresponding Tax Lien for that year was sold to a private third-party lien-holder at a City Tax Lien Sale. Therefore, the amounts listed below for those years may not include all Real Estate Tax liabilities currently due. For more information regarding the name, address, and phone number of the new lien-holder, as well as the status of the lien(s), you may search the Philadelphia Court's civil docket at **Civil Docket Access**. You may enter or copy/paste the 13-digit lien number listed below (ex. 1504R14010000) to the Court's "Case ID" search box.

If the "Status" column on a tax year is marked SEQR, the corresponding Tax Lien for that year is in the sequestration program. For more information regarding the status of the sequestration proceedings, you may call 215-686-3629, or search the Philadelphia Court's civil docket at **Civil Docket Access**. You may enter the property owner's name in the Court's "Caption" search box.

Scroll down to view all results

## Customer Information

BRT#:233041600

Property Address:00959 FILLMORE ST

Owner Name:FOULKROD HOWARD R

Lien Sale Account:

If Lien Sale Account is marked Y, the amount due listed may not include all Real Estate Tax liabilities. Call 215-790-1117 for more information.

Includes Payments Through:05/15/2017

Pay this bill  
Other Payment Options  
Print Payment Coupon  
Payment Agreements  
Assessors

## Real Estate Tax Balance Information

Year	Principal	Interest	Penalty	Other	Total	Lien#	City Solicitor	Status
1998	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
1999	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
2000	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
2001	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
2002	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
2003	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
2004	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
2005	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
2006	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
2007	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
2008	\$2,946.99	\$2,587.25	\$241.62	\$367.75	\$6,143.61	1511R08511426	ROMULO DIAZ	
2009	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
2010	\$3,451.70	\$1,993.36	\$241.62	\$362.40	\$6,049.08	1511R10511427	SHELLEY R. SMITH	
2011	\$3,793.37	\$1,849.27	\$265.54	\$375.69	\$6,283.87	1511R11511428	SHELLEY R. SMITH	
2012	\$3,939.56	\$1,565.98	\$275.77	\$368.08	\$6,149.39	1511R12511429	SHELLEY R. SMITH	
2013	\$4,081.15	\$1,254.96	\$285.68	\$358.51	\$5,980.30	1511R13511430	SHELLEY R. SMITH	
2014	\$3,316.23	\$721.28	\$232.14	\$348.08	\$4,617.73	1505R14020734	SHELLEY R. SMITH	
2015	\$3,316.23	\$422.82	\$232.14	\$330.17	\$4,301.36	1603R15051185	SHELLEY R. SMITH	
2016	\$3,464.23	\$129.91	\$138.57	\$315.86	\$4,048.57	1703R16108874	SOZI PEDRO TULANTE	
2017	\$3,012.37	\$90.37	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,102.74			
MISC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$31,321.83</b>	<b>\$10,615.20</b>	<b>\$1,913.08</b>	<b>\$2,826.54</b>	<b>\$46,676.65</b>			

An amount in parenthesis, e.g., (\$1.00) indicates an overpayment for that year.

Status Descriptions